

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

DECISION ON J.C.S. 1907/160

A Memorandum by the Director, Joint Staff

on

BERLIN SITUATION (U)

Note by the Secretaries

1. On 8 December 1958, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the recommendations in paragraphs 5 and 6 of J.C.S. 1907/160.
2. The memorandum in the Enclosure, dated 8 December 1958, was forwarded to the Secretary of Defense.
3. This decision now becomes a part of and shall be attached as the top sheet of J.C.S. 1907/160.

H. L. HILLYARD,

J. O. COBB,

Joint Secretariat.

DECLASSIFIED BY:
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH
DATE *4 Apr 1979*

8 December 1958

Pages 874 - 876, incl.

MEMORANDUM BY THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

for the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

BERLIN SITUATION (U)

References: a. J.C.S. 1907/157
b. J.C.S. 1907/159

1. The Joint Staff has reviewed the proposed memorandum* for the Secretary of State forwarded with the memorandum** for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) subject as above, dated 5 December 1958.

2. The proposals contained in subparagraphs 1 a, b, c, and d of the proposed memorandum* for the Secretary of State are consistent with the conclusions of a study*** by the Joint Chiefs of Staff authorized for use in the State-Defense Ad Hoc Working Group, and with the recommendations of a memorandum**** by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Secretary of Defense, dated 24 November 1958.

3. Through its membership in the State-Defense Ad Hoc Working Group on Berlin, the Joint Staff has determined that the Department of State is prepared to instruct U.S. Embassy, Bonn, and the U.S. Mission, Berlin, to take action substantially as recommended in subparagraphs 1 a, b, and d of the proposed memorandum* for the Secretary of State. Furthermore, it appears that the Department of State is in accord with the

* Appendix to J.C.S. 1907/159

** Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/159

*** Enclosure "A" of J.C.S. 1907/157

**** Enclosure "C" of J.C.S. 1907/157

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first two sentences of paragraph 2 of the same memorandum,*
and intends so to inform its representatives in Bonn and
Berlin. Receipt by the Secretary of State of the proposed
memorandum* from the Secretary of Defense should reinforce
the Department of State's intentions in the foregoing
respects.

4. The last sentence of paragraph 2 of the proposed
memorandum* for the Secretary of State is not completely
accurate. State Department message** 1088 from U.S.
Embassy Bonn, dated 21 November 1958, indicates that tri-
partite contingency planning on the maintenance of access
to Berlin by air has been initiated.

5. It is recommended that the enclosed memorandum for the
Secretary of Defense, be approved by telephone vote prior
to 1630, 8 December 1958, to make this information available
to Mr. McElroy prior to his departure for Europe at 0900,
9 December 1958.

6. It is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be
forwarded to the commanders of unified or specified commands.

* Appendix to J.C.S. 1907/159
** American Embassy, Bonn, telegram to Department of State,
No. 1088, dated 21 November 1953; On file in Joint
Secretariat List

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E N C L O S U R E

D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Berlin Situation (U)

1. Reference is made to your memorandum* for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, subject as above, dated 5 December 1958, and to the proposed memorandum** for the Secretary of State enclosed therewith.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff note that your proposed memorandum** to the Secretary of State coincides with their views on the situation in Berlin and agree that you should inform the Secretary of State along the lines of your proposed draft.

3. The last sentence of paragraph 2 of your proposed memorandum** to the Secretary of State does not appear accurate in view of a State Department message*** from Bonn dated 21 November 1958 which indicates that tripartite air contingency planning is proceeding. Accordingly it is suggested that this sentence be amended as follows:

"It is understood that Unilateral-U.S. contingency planning on the maintenance of access to Berlin through the air corridors and for air supply of military garrisons in Berlin is currently in progress in Europe, and we will advise you when we are in a position to discuss this subject on a tripartite basis."

* Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/159

** Appendix to J.C.S. 1907/159

*** American Embassy, Bonn, telegram to Department of State, No. 1088, dated 21 November 1958; on file in Joint Secretariat. *lit*

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